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(58) Field of search
 UK CL (Edition K) F2G G24B G24Z
 INT CL⁵ F16L 33/207

(54) Clamping device for hose and pipe connector

(57) A connector comprises an outer retaining projection (4) provided on a tubular connector (2) and an elastically expansible clamping ring (A) comprising an inner hooked projection (7) and an inner clamping projection (8) axially spaced from each other. These projections (7, 8) are formed in such a manner that the ring (A), after having been threaded over the tube (1), may be forcedly slid back onto that portion of the tube (1) fitted onto the tubular member (2) until the hooked projection (7) interferes with and rides over the retaining projection (4) and the clamping projection (8) lies between two adjacent circumferential projections (3) of the tubular member (2). The connector may join an engine coolant hose to a radiator.

FIG. 3

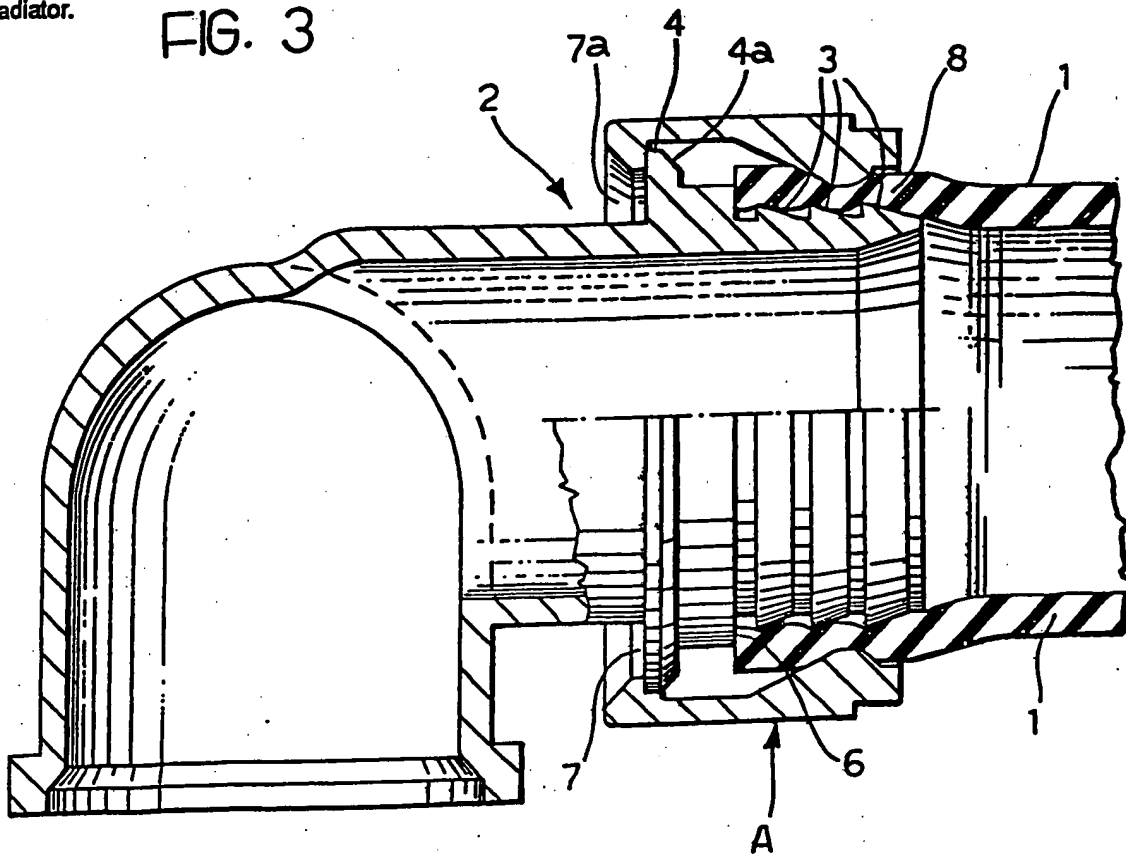


FIG. 1

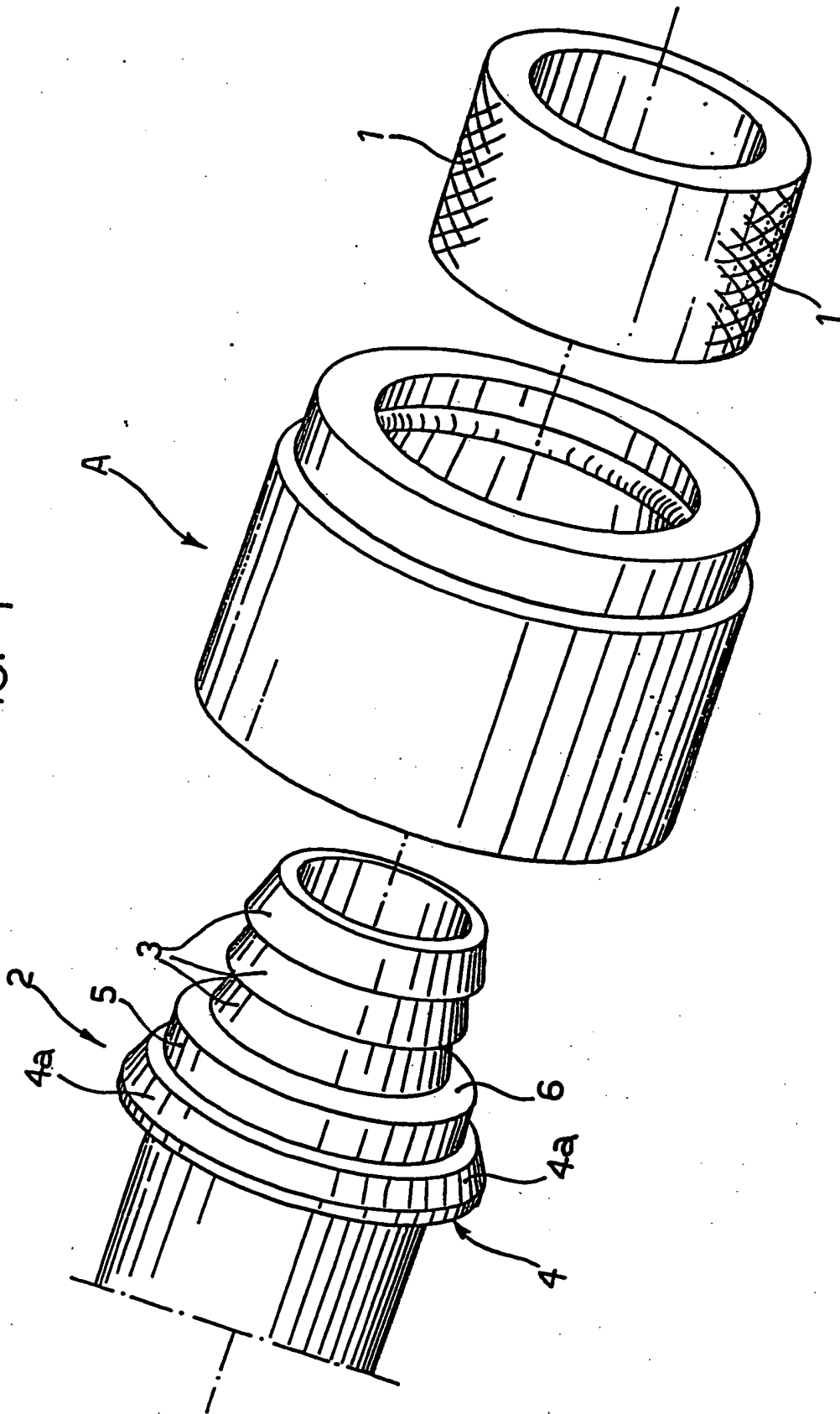


FIG. 2

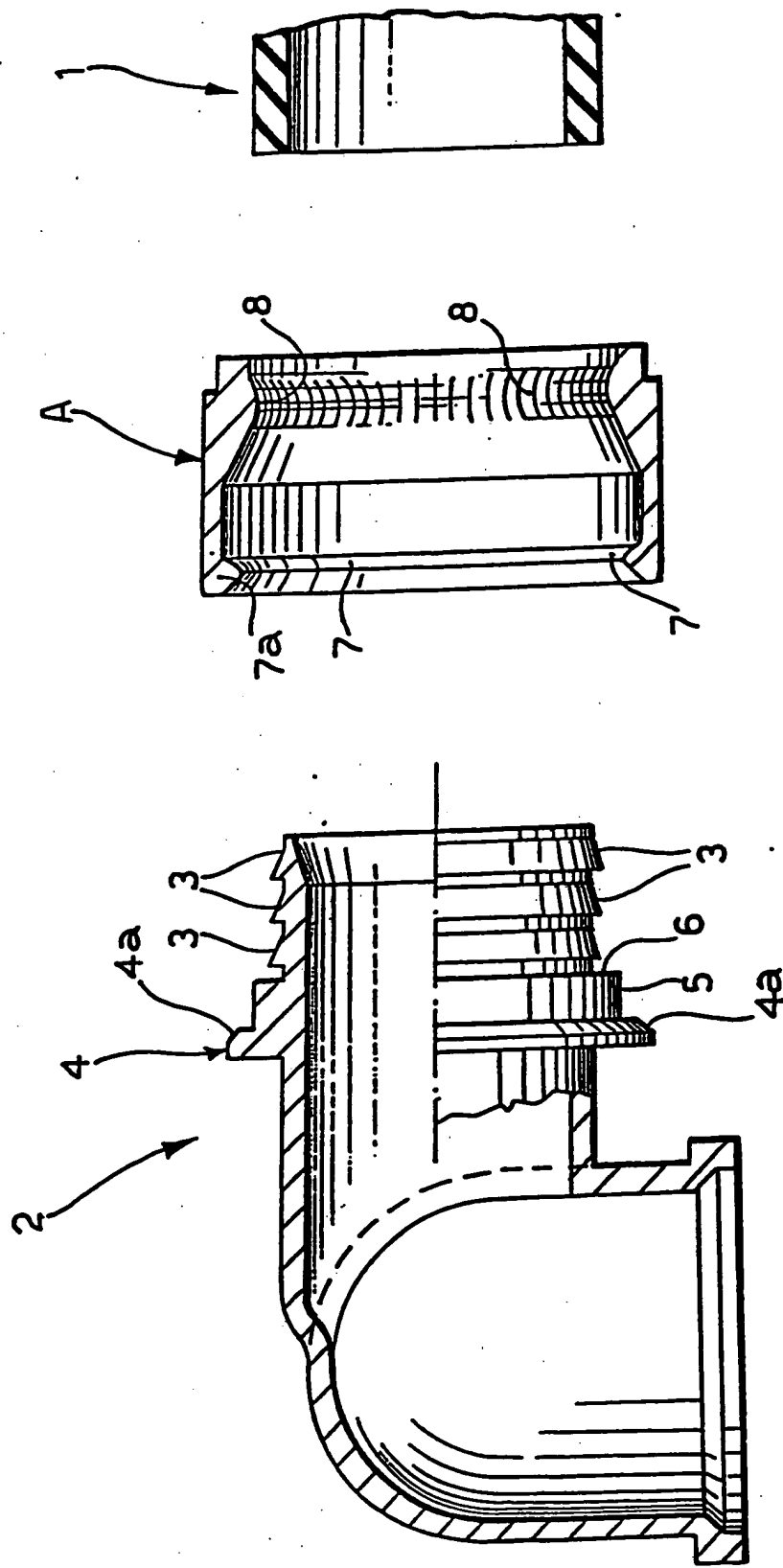
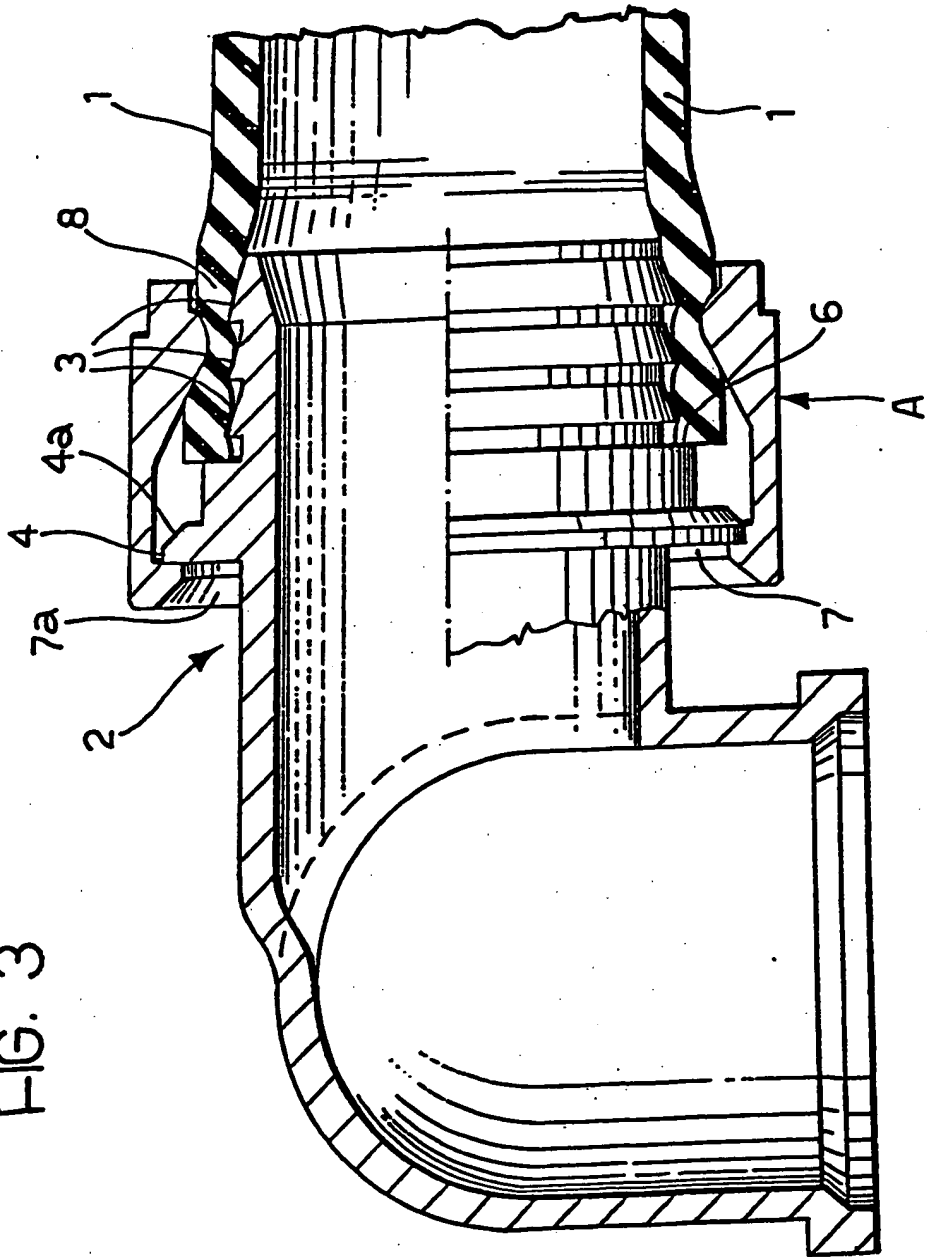


FIG. 3



FLUID-TIGHT CLAMPING DEVICE FOR CLAMPING A FLEXIBLE TUBE
FORCE FITTED ONTO A TUBULAR CONNECTOR

5 The present invention relates to a device for the fluid-tight clamping of a flexible tube, for example a tube of elastomeric material, force fitted onto a tubular member such as a union, of substantially more rigid material and having a plurality of adjacent, external circumferential end projections.

10

The clamping device according to the invention is characterised in that it includes

15 at least one retaining and positioning projection formed on the outside of the tubular member beyond the circumferential projections in the direction in which the flexible tube is fitted onto the tubular member, and

20 a clamping ring which can be threaded onto the flexible tube and has an inner hooked projection and an inner clamping projection axially spaced from each other and formed in such a manner that the ring can be forcedly slid onto that portion of the tube fitted onto the tubular member until the hooked projection interferes with and rides over the positioning and retaining projection of the tubular member and the clamping
25 projection lies between the two adjacent circumferential projections of the tubular member.

According to a further characteristic, the positioning and retaining projection of the tubular member has a surface with a profile inclined towards the end circumferential projections and the inner hooked projection of the clamping ring has a corresponding surface with an inclined lead-in profile for coupling with and sliding forcibly over on the inclined surface of the positioning and retaining projection until it has ridden over it.

10

Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the detailed description which follows, given with reference to the appended drawings, provided purely by way of non-limiting example, in which:

15 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fluid-tight sealing device according to the invention for the connection of a flexible tube with a tubular union;

20 Figure 2 is an axial section of the flexible tube, the union and an associated clamping ring shown in their uncoupled condition, and

Figure 3 is a section similar to that of Figure 2, showing the flexible tube fitted onto the union and clamped thereto by means of the device of the invention.

25 With reference to the drawings, a flexible tube, for example a tube of elastomeric material with or without an internal textile reinforcement, is indicated 1. This

off-cut of flexible tube is to be connected to one end of
a tubular connecting member such as a union, generally
indicated 2. This connector is of substantially rigid
material and has a plurality of external circumferential
5 projections 3 adjacent its end. In the embodiment
illustrated, these projections have saw-tooth profiles.

Conveniently, in a manner known per se, the tube 1 has an
10 inner diameter which is slightly less than the outer
diameter of the projections 3 of the union 2 so that the
tube 1 must be force fitted over these projections.

Reference 4 in the drawings indicates a retaining and
15 positioning projection provided on the outside of the
tubular union 2 beyond the circumferential projections 3.
Conveniently, but not necessarily, this projection
extends around the entire circumference of the union 2
and has an inclined surface in profile, more particularly
20 a surface in the form of a conic frustum indicated 4a
which is inclined towards the circumferential end
projections 3.

An intermediate portion 5 of the outer surface of the
25 union 2 between the retaining and positioning projection
4 and the end projections 3 forms a radial, annular
shoulder 6. The end of the flexible tube 1 comes to bear

against this shoulder when the tube 1 is force fitted
over the end projections 3 of th union.

5 In order to clamp the flexible tube 1 to the union 2 with
a fluid-tight seal, a clamping ring indicated A is used
in accordance with the invention.

10 As best seen in Figures 2 and 3, the ring A has an
internal hooked projection 7 and an internal clamping
projection 8 which are axially spaced apart.

The clamping projection 8 of the ring has an inner
diameter which is preferably slightly less than or equal
to nominal outer diameter of the flexible tube 1.

15

The inner diameter of the hooked projection 7 is, on the
other hand, preferably greater than the nominal outer
-diameter of the said tube.

20 Consequently, the ring A can easily be threaded on to the
end of the tube 1 before this is force fitted on to the
connector or union 2.

25 Once the ring A has been threaded on to the tube 1, the
end of the latter is force fitted onto the union, and
then the ring A is forcedly slid over the tube 1 towards
the retaining projection 4 of the union. This operation

is preferably not carried out manually but with the aid of a tool or mechanical device.

5 As seen in Figure 2, the hooked projection 7 of the ring A has a lead-in surface 7a which faces outwardly, its profile being inclined like the profile of the surface 4a of the retaining projection 4 of the union 2. The inner diameter of the projection 7 of the ring A is less than the outer diameter of the retaining projection 4 of the
10 union.

When the ring A is forcedly slid over the tube 1 fitted onto the union 2, the frusto-conical lead-in surface 7a of the hooked projection first contacts the surface 4a of
15 the retaining projection of the union. As the ring A is thrust further in the direction of the projection 4 of the union, that portion of the ring A formed with the hooked projection 7 expands elastically so as to ride over the projection 4 of the union to reach the hooked
20 position shown in Figure 3. Once it has passed this projection, the resilient contraction of that portion of the ring A which had previously expanded forms a substantially irreversible engagement of this ring with the projection or flange 4 of the union.

25

The axial distance between the projections 7 and 8 of the ring A is suitably such that, in the coupled condition

shown in Figure 3, the projection 8 compresses and grips
a zone of the wall of the flexible tube 1 between the
crests of two adjacent circumferential projections 3 of
the union. This ensures highly reliable fluid-tight
5 clamping.

The union connector 2 illustrated in the drawings may,
for example, be the inlet connector or the outlet
connector for a radiator of a motor vehicle having an
10 internal combustion engine, the flexible tube 1 being for
example, a hydraulic pipeline of the water cooling system
of the internal combustion engine.

The device according to the invention is not only
15 suitable for use in the case just illustrated, however,
but is also usable in all those circumstances in which
hose-clips are conventionally used.

The invention naturally extends to all embodiments which
20 achieve equal utility by means of the same innovative
concept.

Thus, for example, one or other or both of the
projections 4 and 7 need not extend around the entire
25 circumference of the ring and the union respectively but
only around (one or more) sectors thereof.

CLAIMS

1. A fluid-tight clamping device for a flexible tube
(1) force fitted onto a substantially rigid tubular
member (2) - such as a union - and having a plurality of
5 adjacent external circumferential end projections (3);
characterised in that it includes

at least one retaining and positioning projection
(4) formed on the outside of the tubular member (2)
beyond the circumferential projections (3), and

10 a clamping ring (A) which is elastically expansible
and can be threaded onto the flexible tube (1) and has an
inner hooked projection (7) and an inner clamping
projection (8) axially spaced from each other and formed
in such a manner that the ring (A) can be forcedly slid
15 onto that portion of the tube (1) fitted onto the tubular
member (2) in the direction of the tubular member (2)
until the hooked projection (7) interferes with and rides
over the positioning and retaining projection (4) of the
tubular member (2) and the clamping projection (8) lies
20 between the two adjacent circumferential projections (3)
of the tubular member (2).

2. A device according to Claim 1, characterised in that
the positioning and retaining projection (4) of the
25 tubular member (2) has a surface (4a) with a profile
inclined towards the circumferential projections (3) and
in that the inner hooked projection (7) of the clamping

ring (A) has a corresponding lead-in surface (7a) with an inclined profile for coupling with and sliding forcibly over the inclined surface (7a) of the positioning and retaining projection (7) so that the ring (A) expands elastically and the hooked projection (7) rides over the positioning and retaining projection (4).

3. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the positioning and retaining projection (4) is constituted by a circumferential flange of the tubular member (2).

4. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the inner hooked projection (7) of the clamping ring (A) extends around the entire inner circumference of the ring (A).

5. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the inner clamping projection (8) of the ring (A) extends around the entire inner circumference of the ring (A).

6. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the end circumferential projections (3) of the tubular member (2) have saw-tooth profiles.

7. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the inner clamping projection (8) of the ring (A) has a rounded profile.

5 8. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the tubular member (2) has a stop shoulder (6) between the retaining and positioning projection (4) and the end circumferential projections (3) for abutment by the end of the flexible tube (1).

9. A fluid-tight clamping device substantially as hereinbefore described and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

Relevant Technical fields

- (i) UK Cl (Edition K) F2G (G24B, G24Z)
- (ii) Int CL (Edition 5) F16L 33/207

Search Examiner

B J PROCTOR

Databases (see over)

- (i) UK Patent Office
- (ii)

Date of Search

2 JUNE 1992

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims

1-9

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
A	GB 2165909 A (EARL'S SUPPLY CO) Eg figure 3	1-9

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X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.

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